

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A heat treatable coated article includes an oxidation graded layer designed so as to include an at least partially oxidized anti-migration or barrier layer(s) portion provided between a solar management layer portion (e.g., NiCr layer portion) and a dielectric layer (e.g., silicon nitride). In certain example embodiments, the anti-migration or barrier layer(s) portion may include a metal oxide, and function(s) to prevent element(s) from migrating between the solar management layer and the dielectric layer upon heat treatment (HT) of the coated article. As a result, the coated article has improved color stability (and thus a lower ΔE^* value) upon HT. In certain example embodiments, a single target may be used to sputter the graded layer including the anti-migration layer portions and the more metallic central portion. Coated articles herein may be used in the context of insulating glass (IG) window units, other architectural windows, vehicle windows, or the like.